

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 and 20-29 are pending. By this Amendment, the drawings, specification, and claims 1 and 20 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative at the February 27, 2008 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated herein.

The specification and drawings have been amended as requested by the Examiner at the personal interview.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 6, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Independent claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claim 1 should be withdrawn. The rejection is respectfully traversed in so far as it applied to claims 6 and 11.

Dependent claim 6 recites that the wide-angle lens has a focusing distance of about 11.8 + - .1mm. Dependent claim 10 recites that the lens has an image pickup distance range of about 20-70cm. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize and understand that the term “about” means “approximately”, and thus, would understand the parameter intended. Accordingly, the rejection of dependent claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 12, and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wada et al. (hereinafter “Wada”), U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0191076 in view of Kato et al. (hereinafter “Kato”), U.S. Patent No. 6,161,583. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed at the personal interview, independent claims 1 and 20, as amended, and independent claim 26, as written, define over Wada and Kato. Accordingly, the rejection of independent claims 1, 20, and 26 over Wada and Kato should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 21-25, and 27-29 are allowable over Wada and Kato in view of their respective dependency on independent claims 1, 20, and 26, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada, in view of Kato, and further in view of Abe, U.S. Patent No. 6,747,814. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 6 is allowable over Wada and Kato at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Abe fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wada and Kato, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching a wide-angle lens having a focusing distance of about $11.8 \pm 1\text{mm}$. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 6 over Wada, Kato, and Abe should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada, in view of Kato, and further in view of Oda et al. (hereinafter "Oda"), U.S. Patent No. 6,850,631. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 10 is allowable over Wada and Kato at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for its added features. Oda fails to overcome the deficiencies of Wada and Kato, as it is merely cited for allegedly teaching an image pickup distant range of about 20 to 70 cm. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 10 over Wada, Kato, and Oda should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. **10/747,945**

Docket No. **HI-0177**

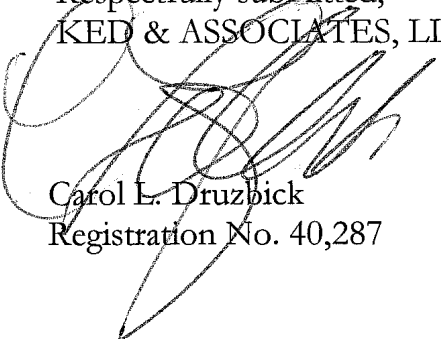
Amendment dated March 10, 2008

Reply to Office Action of November 1, 2007

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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